



BARTOW - PELL MANSION MUSEUM

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**'A VERY NEW YORK CHRISTMAS' HOLIDAY PREVIEW  
AT BARTOW-PELL MANSION MUSEUM**

***Storybook Christmas Trees, Music, Shopping, and Family Fun Ahead  
Sonia Manzano (Sesame Street's 'Maria') to Read From her New Book at Family Day***

*Bronx, NY, November 2, 2015* — Named one of the “top 5 places to see Christmas trees” in 2014 by NBC’s *New York Live*, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum (BPMM) is gearing up for its best holiday season yet. The museum’s highly popular Storybook Christmas Trees are back—inspired by children’s books about the holidays in New York—and decorated by some of the New York metropolitan area’s leading designers. This year’s theme, ‘A Very New York Christmas,’ is inspired by Michael Storrings’ whimsical book of the same name. Storrings’ recently re-released book features charming illustrations of well-known New York City sites dressed up for the holidays and includes Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum.

A highlight of this year’s festivities will be the Annual Holiday Family Day on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> when **Sonia Manzano, Maria of Sesame Street fame, makes a special author appearance to read and sign copies of her new children’s book, *Miracle on 133rd Street*** (Simon and Schuster, September 2015) at the 10:15 a.m. storybook reading.

The season kicks off on **Friday, December 4th with the Holiday Luncheon**. Guests enjoy fine food and friends, shopping for gifts and home-baked goods at the Bartow–Pell holiday shop (stocked, once again, with the help of Bronxville’s Kensington Paper), the first glimpses of the Storybook Christmas Trees, and a **book signing with special guest Michael Storrings**. That evening the merriment continues with the **Holiday First Friday! Music and Trolley** featuring the festive sounds of the MetropoliTones.

Holiday fun continues the next day at the **Annual Holiday Family Day, Saturday, December 5th**. In addition to Sonia Manzano reading from her book *Miracle on 133<sup>rd</sup> Street*, children and parents alike will delight in other holiday storytelling, crafts, shopping for gifts, and of course the much-anticipated meeting with Santa. For those who made the “nice” list, professional photographs with Mr. Claus himself are once again be offered for an additional fee.

Saturday night, it’s time to celebrate—and support—the mansion in holiday splendor at the **Festive Party!** Guests will enjoy cocktails and caroling, a delicious buffet dinner, live auction, a raffle, and more.

Through it all, the eight Storybook Christmas Trees will delight visitors from entrance hall to double parlors to Lannuier bedchamber, and beyond. This year’s designers are an impressive mix from throughout the tri-state area and include Michael Storrings, Creative Designer of St. Martin’s Press; husband and wife team Mike Gracie and Paula McKeever of the renowned hand-painted wallpaper company, Gracie; Manhattan-based interior designers Benjamin Bradley and Byron James, Westchester designers Jennifer Condon, Barbara Feinstein, and Victoria Kirk, and Greenwich, CT based designer Suzanne Eason.

Corporate sponsorships are still available and to date include Clinique, Digital Pulp, D. Ragno Landscaping, Houlihan Lawrence Real Estate, McClellan Sotheby’s International Realty and John Pacia D.D.S. Elizabeth Pacia.

There's more to come—including music with the Bronx Arts Ensemble, candlelit tours of the holiday mansion and Victorian Carolers—all magical ways to kick off the season with a bit of 19th-century spirit and support the preservation and programs at Bartow-Pell.

## HOLIDAY 2015 EVENTS

### 'A Very New York' Holiday Luncheon

**Friday, December 4, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Start the holiday season off with a bang at the festive annual luncheon. Illustrator and designer Michael Storrings will be on hand to sign copies of his book *A Very New York Christmas*. Enjoy the company of friends, delicious food, and shopping for gifts and home-baked goods. **Reservations required. Cost \$60 and \$80 (includes listing in program).**

### Holiday First Friday! Music and Trolley

**Friday, December 4, 5:30–8:30 p.m.**

Enjoy the mellifluous and merry sounds of the a cappella MetropoliTones—back by popular demand—from 6 to 8 p.m. Holiday shopping and refreshments add to the fun. The free Bronx Trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. **Registration requested. Cost \$12 adults, \$10 seniors & students; members free**

### Annual Holiday Family Day: A Storybook Christmas

**Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Holiday spirit abounds at this fun-filled day. Children (and parents) will delight in holiday storytelling and crafts, professional photographs with Santa, shopping, and more. Storytelling at 10:15 a.m. (*author Sonia Manzano at 10:15 a.m. reading only*) and noon; holiday crafts and photos with Santa are ongoing.

**Space is limited, registration required, 718.885.1461 or [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org). Cost \$20 children one year and up; member children \$15 (adults and children under one year free). Photos with Santa additional \$20 fee.**

### Festive Party!

**Saturday, December 5, 7–10 p.m.**

Celebrate—and support—the museum in holiday splendor. Enjoy cocktails, buffet dinner, caroling, great live auction items, and more! **Reservations required. Cost \$150, \$225 (includes listing in program), and \$300 (includes listing in program).**

### Bronx Arts Ensemble Holiday Concerts

**Saturday, December 12, 1 & 3 p.m. and Sunday, December 13, 1 & 3 p.m.**

The Bronx Arts Ensemble and Singers present two wonderful holiday concerts with music for St. Nicholas.

**Concerts are free, but space is limited and tickets are required. Call Bronx Arts Ensemble at 718.601.7399 for tickets. The museum will not be open for tours on Saturday or Sunday.**

### Holiday Candlelight Tours and Victorian Carolers

**Saturday, December 12, 6–8 p.m.**

Experience the mansion by candlelight with costumed docents highlighting 19th-century holiday traditions. Victorian carolers add to the festive atmosphere while you enjoy wassail and holiday snacks in the Orangerie. **Reservations requested. Cost \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, students, and members.**

## ABOUT THE BARTOW-PELL MANSION MUSEUM

A New York City Landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum (BPMM) is owned by the City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation and is a member of the Historic House Trust of New York City. It is operated by the private, non-profit Bartow-Pell Conservancy. The Bartow-Pell Conservancy, originally known as the International Garden Club, was formed in 1914 by a group passionate about horticulture. That year, New York City gave them permission to use the Bartow family mansion on Pelham Bay in the Bronx, as their headquarters in exchange for restoring it, creating public gardens and programs, and preserving it for generations to come. The International Garden Club officially changed its name to the Bartow-Pell Conservancy in 2008 as well its membership model to that of a typical cultural organization. BPMM is located at 895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, New York. The mansion and carriage house are open to the public for

guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The gardens and grounds are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to dusk. For more information about Bartow-Pell, visit [www.bpmm.org](http://www.bpmm.org).